

May 3, 2013

# Weekly Views

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) Family Education Department (FED) Director Tamera Shirley and Assistant Superintendent Dalton Haney met with U.S. Representative Andre Carson at his office in the Julia Carson Government Center to update him on the recent changes and events that have taken place at the facility since his visit in July 2012. Shirley and Haney also discussed the implementation of FED programs that emphasize cognitive thinking and change, and important key components of re-entry for IREF's population of offenders returning to society. Rep. Carson has been an active supporter in recidivism reduction since taking office in 2009, and has pledged his support and partnership in IREF's efforts to more successfully reintegrate residents into the community.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) Purposeful Living Units Service (PLUS) program raised \$4,052 through a Papa John's pizza sale. A huge thank-you goes to Papa John's for fixing and delivering 1005 pizzas, 250 cinnamon pies and 350 orders of chicken wings. Half of the money raised went back into the PLUS program and the rest was distributed to several local community organizations. \$500 was given to both the Indiana State Police Summer Youth Camp and Alternatives, Inc, an Anderson women's shelter. \$552 went to the Animal Protection League and \$500 to the Pendleton Junior Baseball Champions League a league for children ages 5 to 18 with physical and developmental disabilities.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Family Preservation Program held a Mother's Day Luncheon for the program's 46 offender mothers and their 96 children. This event was sponsored by the Castleton United Methodist Church, whose many volunteers were present to help the children with crafts, games and to serve the mothers and children a delicious fried chicken lunch. The IWP clowns of the Clown Ministry presented a skit as well as make balloon animals and provided face painting for the children. Offender handlers and dogs of the Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) were present to greet the children and mothers in attendance.

Kaplan College Career Services Center and students attended a presentation by Denise Jackson, a parole officer from the Indianapolis Parole District#3 Office, to learn first-hand inside the daily work of a parole officer and their various interactions with their clients in the community. Denise Jackson challenged students interested in criminal justice studies to be prepared to motivate persons they will work with to become productive, law-abiding members of their community, in order to aid in their successful transition into society.

There is one less horse in the herd at Putnamville Correctional Facility. Opening Bob, a 14-year old chestnut, was adopted by a family from Indianapolis, IN. "Bob" will be the family's new 4-H horse and receive training in barrels, poles, trails and be taught English discipline. Equine instructor Barbara Holcomb supervises the program of 30 horses and 8 offenders.

The Knox County "Kids Against Hunger" program has received a \$1,000 boost from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Community Involvement Fund. "Kids Against Hunger" provides prepackaged meals of rice, soy, dried vegetables and several vitamins and minerals. Meals are distributed to 8 Knox County food pantries and ministries. WVCF staff joined nearly 300 volunteers to help package 81,432 meals.

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) planted a tree in remembrance of Crime Victims' Rights Week. Mr. McBride, Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry, shared a few words with the staff present for the tree planting ceremony. The American Legion Post 130 and Northwestern Jaycees, offender organizations located at ISP, also donated \$800 to the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA).

Detective Marty Corley of the Michigan City Police Department (MCPD) spoke to students in the GED program at Camp Summit Boot Camp about gangs, criminal behavior and problems associated with those kinds of choices. He also spoke about the keys to success in school, in their communities, and in the Boot Camp program. When discussing the pathways to success and the pitfalls of criminal behavior, Detective Corley drew upon his experiences in school growing up in Michigan City and with working the police beat.

Members of the Pendleton Correctional Facility K-9 Team conducted two demonstrations at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in connection with the annual "Mutt Strut" event that benefits the Indianapolis Humane Society. The demonstrations involved aggression tactics as well as drug and explosives detection techniques.

Students from the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility participate in the newly formed Automobile Technology program. Student who have achieved their GED are offered a program where they learn real world application for automobile maintenance and repair. The program is taught by the Logansport Juvenile Maintenance staff during school hours as an alternative to the C-Tech program.

Staff at the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) are excited to restart the vocational education class Automotive Technology. This vocational opportunity has been missing from the education curriculum for over two years. Eleven offenders are slated to begin Auto Tech on Monday, and the class will increase to eighteen in the coming months. With hundreds of offenders awaiting programming at WCC, this re-entry skill class is a welcome addition.

The Correctional Industrial Facility joined the nation for the 2013 National Day of Prayer. This year's focus was "Pray for America". Chaplain Alan McCraine led the ceremony by reading a Proclamation by President Barack Obama declaring the day of prayer; scripture from Matthew 12:21, "In his name the nation will put their hope"; and a prayer written by 2013 National Day of Prayer Honorary Chairman Greg Laurie.